

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Claims 2-6 and 11-14 are cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the limitations relating to a scan management subsystem, an access management subsystem, a print management subsystem, a vault management subsystem, a folder management subsystem, a signature verification subsystem, and a paper document representation subsystem. Accordingly, claim 1 now includes limitations relating to a log management subsystem, a version management subsystem, a consistency verification subsystem, and a cover page analysis subsystem. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1 and 7-10 remain in this application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,456,747 to Altman in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083079 to Meier et al. (hereinafter “the Meier publication”), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0235345 to Stalcup et al. (hereinafter “the Stalcup publication”).

Applicants have deleted the limitations of claim 1 that the Examiner has indicated as being disclosed in the Altman patent, namely, the scan management subsystem, the print management subsystem, the vault management subsystem, the folder management subsystem, and the paper document representation subsystem. The Examiner has indicated that the Altman patent does not disclose the log management subsystem, the version management subsystem, the consistency verification subsystem, and the cover page analysis subsystem, among others. Accordingly, the Examiner relies on the Meier and Stalcup publications to reject these limitations.

With respect to the log management subsystem limitation of claim 1, the Meier publication discloses the ability to log into a system in order to review and organize case documents (See paragraph [0091]). In other words, the system disclosed in the Meier publication relates to access control (i.e., logging in and out). The log management subsystem (as opposed to a “log-in” management subsystem) of claim 1 and as further defined in claim 7 relates to a system that provides detailed information about usage and access information such as scanner usage, printer usage, vault usage, folder usage, and

date/time of usage for auditing purposes. Thus, the log management subsystem of the present invention concerns usage and not access control.

With respect to the consistency verification subsystem and the cover page analysis subsystem, the Meier publication discloses aspects relating to document imaging, alternatives to document scanning, and image enhancement (See paragraphs [0063]-[0072]). These aspects include setting batch parameters, separation of scanned documents (single-page/multi-page documents), operator observation of scanned document pages, duplex mode scanning (front and reverse side), creation of a photocopy image of each page of the scanned document, obtaining scanned images from different sources, and image enhancement such as rotation, skew correction, noise reduction, and de-specking to correct problems such as inaccurate OCRs. The consistency verification subsystem and the cover page analysis subsystem of claim 1 and as further defined in claims 9 and 10, respectively, relate to verifying whether the indexed physical document (hard form) and indexed folder document (soft form) are indeed same. Specifically, claim 9 describes consistency verification between a physical document stored in a vault and electronic document stored in a folder to ensure that there is a correspondence between the two forms of a document. Such a comparison involves processing document details, creation/submission history details, and page analysis. Furthermore, claim 10 describes a cover page analysis that provides for an analysis of a cover page data to obtain various filed names and the corresponding values. Such a detailed analysis helps in document retrieval.

In any case, none of the prior art of record discloses the cover page analysis subsystem or its functional equivalent. Although scanning, in general, is performed on the various pages of a document, multiple versions of documents are not being managed by comparison of different (e.g., earlier) cover pages thereof. Therefore, the limitations of claim 10 relating to analysis of cover pages are not disclosed, taught, or suggested in the prior art of record.

With respect to the version management subsystem, the Stalcup publication discloses a system for comparison of a new scanned document with respect to the documents existing in a database from the point of view of checking for duplicates and elimination of the duplicates (See the document in FIG. 4; paragraph [0040]). The version management subsystem of claim 1 and as further defined in claim 8 provides information related to

multiple versions of a single document and the requirement is to store all of them (no elimination). This helps in managing physical and electronic documents that are successive updates of the underlying document. Note that such different versions are not duplicates of each other and managing different versions is a more systematic way of managing physical and electronic documents (hard-and-soft forms).

Neither the Altman nor the Stalcup publications, either alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests the limitations of claim 1. Claims 7-10 depending from claim 1 further define the various subsystems. In any case, Applicants deem claim 1 to be unanticipated and non-obvious in light of the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of claims 1 and 7-10.

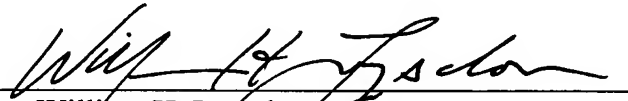
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1 and 7-10 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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